

Oct. 1 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

legislation to extend the Brady bill to keep guns away from people with a history of domestic violence.

I want to thank Representative Conyers for his hard work on this bill. And I want to add that this legislation is proof of the progress we can make for the American people when we

put politics aside and join with each other in common cause. Together, with this bill, we have done much to give our families the safety and security they deserve.

NOTE: H.R. 3676, approved October 1, was assigned Public Law No. 104-217.

Statement on Signing Legislation Conferring Honorary United States Citizenship on Mother Teresa

October 1, 1996

Today I am delighted to sign a resolution conferring honorary United States citizenship on Mother Teresa.

In 1950, Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. Since then, she has brought hope and love into the lives of millions of orphaned and abandoned children the world over. She has nursed the sick, cared for the poor, and shown us, through concrete actions, how we can make real our dreams for a just and good society.

To be an American citizen is to share certain fundamental values: That we have a duty to

help others live up to their God-given promise, that we have a responsibility to build up and reinforce the bonds of community, that we have an obligation to extend our hands to those who cannot always help themselves.

By this measure, Mother Teresa is already an American citizen. I am proud to make it official.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 191, approved October 1, was assigned Public Law No. 104-218.

Message to the Senate Transmitting Amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization

October 1, 1996

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to acceptance, amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, signed at Geneva, March 6, 1948 (the IMO Convention). The amendments were adopted on November 7, 1991, and November 4, 1993, by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State describing the amendments, their purpose and effect.

The United States is the world's largest user of international shipping. These amendments strengthen the International Maritime Organization's capability to facilitate international mari-

time traffic and to carry out its activities in developing strong maritime safety and environmental protection standards and regulations. The IMO's policies and maritime standards largely reflect our own. The United States pays less than 5 percent of the assessed contributions to the IMO.

The 1991 amendments institutionalize the Facilitation Committee as one of the IMO's standing committees. The Facilitation Committee was created to streamline the procedures for the arrival, stay and departure of ships, cargo and persons in international ports. This committee effectively contributes to greater efficiencies and profits for the U.S. maritime sector, while assisting U.S. law enforcement agencies' efforts to